

Michigan City, IN – Michigan City Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (MCEDI)

Location: Michigan City, IN

Venue: The Economic Development Corporation Michigan City

Intro to the City and Overview of the economy

Michigan City is a lakefront community nestled among Lake Michigan and the Indiana Dunes while being a train ride away from the big city offerings of Chicago and South Bend. The city provides a platform for outdoor activities, water sports, cultural experiences, dining, shopping, downtown excursions, and vibrant vibes.

The city has a population of 32,000 with a median household income of \$62,620. Eighty-nine percent of the population are high school graduates and 18.8 percent have bachelor's degrees.

Overview of the Local Economy: A diverse workforce converges along the lake with access to rail, highway and water avenues. Manufacturing, healthcare, education, small businesses, restaurants, retail and beyond make up the business community and provide many areas for employment. The Compressed Air Academy unites local industry employers, Ivy Tech and the city's high school to offer hands-on learning for Air Compressor industry as part of the manufacturing sector. College campuses for Ivy Tech and Purdue Northwest are nearby for education and employment opportunities.

Housing and mixed-use projects are sparking additional avenues for growth and development within communities and neighborhoods. The South Shore Line Double Track project cut down travel time to Chicago, allowed for a new and renovated train station and parking garage as well as the development of a high-rise mixed-use development that is the only TOD in the state of Indiana. The Franklin at 11th Street Station project will blend apartments, outdoor spaces, retail offerings and amenities adjacent to the station and in the heart of downtown. The first new neighborhood in 50 years, Woodland Ridge, is offering homes in the \$295,000 range, while Tryon Meadows is setting the stage for a mix of rentals and for-sale units in a community setting.

The Poverty and Disadvantage Challenge in the City

Population and Age:

- Total population: Approximately 31,425 (2025 estimate)
- Median age: 37.8 years
- Population under 18: Approximately 24%
- Population 65 and older: Approximately 14 to 18%

Race and Ethnicity:

- White: Approximately 63% to 64%
- Black or African American: Approximately 25% to 29%
- Hispanic or Latino: Approximately 6% to 10%
- Other races and multiracial: Approximately 7% to 8%

Income and Poverty:

- Median household income: \$52,979
- Per capita income: \$29,518
- Overall poverty rate: 19.3%
- Child poverty rate (under 18): Approximately 36.8%
- Female-headed households account for about 87% of families living in poverty

Poverty by Education:

- Without a high school diploma: 28.6% below poverty
- High school graduates: 14.2% below poverty



Education and Employment:

- High school graduate or higher: 89.3%
- Bachelor's degree or higher: 18.8%
- Unemployment rate: Approximately 5.6%
- Average commute time: 21 to 22 minutes

Unique businesses continue to open their doors and expand their footprint, including a French cuisine restaurant, wine bar, plaza, brewery, hardware store, manufacturers and more. The Economic Development Corporation Michigan City continues to provide incentives, support and assistance for any size business that is launching, relocating or expanding in Michigan City. The team guides site selectors through the process, discusses abatements, tax incentives, provides networking and resources for entrepreneurs, collaborates with businesses for retention and expansion, and connects talent to potential employers through workforce development and training.

The city continues to identify and tackle challenges within its neighborhoods, including economic inclusion, affordable housing, education and workforce opportunities. The Vibrant Michigan City initiative has harnessed the power of people by creating actionable steps based on research, data, public feedback, expert guidance and leadership. The playbook is a guide for city and community leaders to address the areas of the city that need cultivating and projects that pinpoint progress for all community members. The roadmap focuses on the West side, East side and Midtown areas and their unique needs.

Through the ongoing Vibrant Michigan City process, the Neighborhood Leadership Academy is incorporating ideas from residents through a program that unites neighborhood leaders with experts in a variety of fields. The final projects are ideas for how neighborhoods can flourish in ways that are as unique as their individual areas of the city.

Contact: [The Economic Development Corporation Michigan City](#)

Office of the Mayor

City of Michigan City

100 E. Michigan Blvd.

Michigan City, IN 46360

Phone: 219.873.1427 ext. 2018

Email: kward@emichigancity.com

